



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of NCTA President & CEO Michael Powell Regarding House Energy & Commerce Committee Approval of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (STELA)

“We applaud the bipartisan leadership of Chairmen Upton and Walden and Ranking Members Waxman and Eshoo for moving this bill out of the full committee and to the House floor, which extends expiring good faith obligations and makes modest video reforms that will yield significant consumer benefits. We are especially pleased that the legislation eliminates the FCC’s Integration Ban, an unnecessary mandate that forces cable customers with leased set-top boxes to bear added costs and higher energy use while offering no consumer benefit. Further, the legislation rightly addresses concerns of anticompetitive harm in retransmission consent negotiations, by barring such collusion or coordination among local broadcast stations that are not commonly owned. We urge the full House and relevant Senate committees to quickly act on this must-pass legislation.”

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NCTA is the principal trade association for the U.S. cable industry, representing cable operators serving more than 90 percent of the nation's cable television households and more than 200 cable program networks. The cable industry is the nation's largest broadband provider of high-speed Internet access, serving more than 52 million customers, after investing \$210 billion since 1996 to build two-way interactive networks with fiber optic technology. Cable companies also provide state-of-the-art digital telephone service to more than 27 million American consumers.